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~~SECRET~~ INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 14 June 1948

SUBJECT

Red Army Units in Mecklenburg

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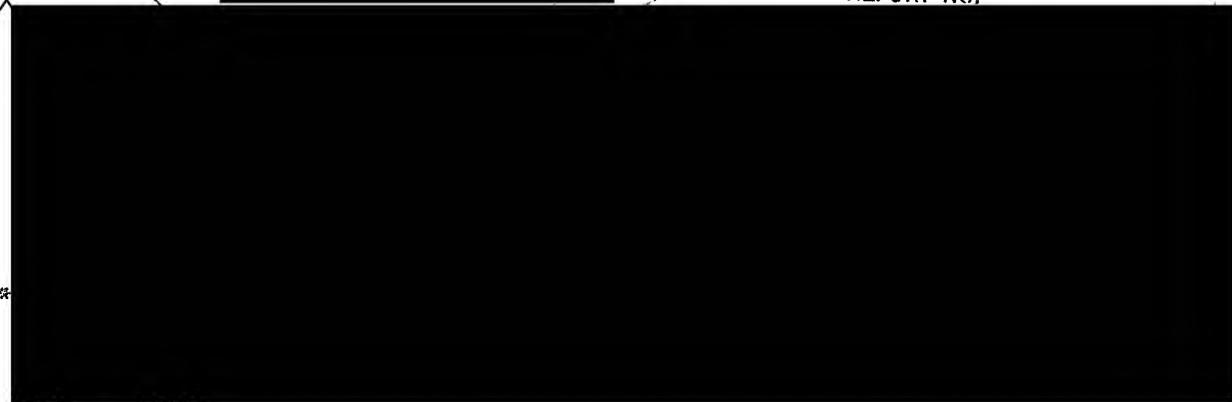
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1. The Russians appeared during late April and early May 1948 to be withdrawing as many combat troops as possible from the cities in order to lodge them in barracks camps and in forest habitments. Artillery pieces and tanks were also being taken into the Mecklenburg forests--near railroads or good roads whenever possible. There were 5,000 men in Wismar at the beginning of March 1948, but only 3,000 were left in the city by early May. Of the 8,000 men who filled the Rostock barracks around the first of the year only half remained by early May. Tanks and artillery pieces have been withdrawn from Rostock to a new forest camp at Sagerheide, fifteen kilometers distant.

2. The XXIX Russian Army Corps was occupying the area from the zonal frontier eastward to the Wismar-Warin (T-68)-Goldberg (I-86)-Pjau (U-04) line during early May 1948. Its headquarters were in Schwerin, as was the staff of a subordinate division. Two other divisional headquarters were in Wismar and in Ludwigslust (T-53).

3. The LI Army Corps occupied the southeastern part of Mecklenburg, south of the Warin-Güstrow-Malchin (U-38) line. This corps arrived from Russia in November 1947, but had been in Germany earlier, presumably in the state of Brandenburg. The LI Corps headquarters are in Neustrelitz (U-54). Two subordinate divisional headquarters are in Neustrelitz, one is in Neu Brandenburg (U-66), and one in Güstrow (T-98).

4. The XII Army Corps occupied, until March 1948, that part of Mecklenburg north of the Warin-Güstrow-Malchin line, and Vorpommern. In March, a wholesale shifting of units out of the XII Corps area began. Toward the end of March, two motorized artillery regiments and two motorized infantry regiments were transferred from the Rostocker Heide (O-93) to Brandenburg. Other units went eastward. New units were expected to arrive shortly at the Rostocker Heide, but as of early May only a handful of troops occupied the Heide camps.

5. The headquarters of the corps which replaced the XII Corps has been established at Greifswald (P-72); subordinate divisional staffs are in Demmin (P-50).

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Restock, and at the Rostocker Heide. The chief of all combat troops in Mecklenburg and Vorpommern is at Greifswald. Inspection teams frequently sally forth from his headquarters to visit units throughout Mecklenburg.

6. In the XXIX Corps area there are at least three Russian armored divisions with headquarters at Schwerin, Ludwigslust, and possibly Grevesmühlen (T-29). Three tank regiments, two of them possessing Stalin tanks, were in the forest near Schwerin, between Consrade (T-46) and Piast (T-45) and east of the Schwerin-Ludwigslust road. West of this road are further large troop encampments. Germans are barred from both areas. Other armored units in the XXIX Corps area during early May were the following:

1 light tank regiment	Schwerin
1 heavy " "	Kiekindemark Forest, south of Parchim (T-74)
2 " " regiments	Ludwigslust (new camp)
1 light " regiment	Alt Karlstadt Forest, near Grabow (T-52)
1 heavy " "	Forest near Lübzheen (T-22)
1 tank section (sic)	Hagenow (T-24)
1 light tank section (sic)	Gadebusch-Schützenhof (T-27)

7. The following armored units occupied the LI Corps area during early May:

1 light tank section(sic)	Güstrow
2 tank regiments	Kranzer Forest (not located)
1 tank regiment	Forest east of Stargard (O-85)
2 tank regiments	Forest east of Strelitz-Neustrelitz (U-54) road
1 tank regiment	Forest near Fürstenberg (U-52)
1 or 2 tank regiments	Forest south of Mirow (U-33)

8. The territory formerly assigned to the XII Corps contained the following units early in May 1948:

1 heavy tank regiment	Sagerheide, near Rostock
2 tank regiments	Forest encampment between Dargun (P-30) and Demmin
1 tank regiment	New camp in forest between Butzow (T-79) and Neukloster (T-69)
1 divisional staff	Rostock

9. The distribution of troops in Mecklenburg, by towns:

Gadebusch-Schützenhof	1 motorized infantry battalion 1 or 2 tank sections (sic)
Grabow	1 motorized reconnaissance detachment 1 heavy tank regiment and 1 motorized artillery section (sic) in Alt Karlstadt forest
Grevesmühlen	1 armored division headquarters 1 motorized infantry battalion 1 or 2 tank sections (sic) in forest east of town
Güstrow	1 divisional headquarters 1 armored division headquarters 1 light tank section (sic) 1 motorized infantry regiment 1 cavalry regiment 1 motorized light artillery regiment
Ludwigslust	1 armored division headquarters 1 motorized infantry regiment 1 motorized engineer battalion 2 heavy tank regiments (in camp outside town)

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Forest near Libtheen	1 heavy tank regiment 1 motorized reconnaissance detachment 1 motorized infantry battalion
Malchin	1 motorized engineer battalion
Neu Brandenburg	1 divisional headquarters 1 motorized infantry regiment 1 motorized engineer battalion
Neustrelitz	LI Army Corps headquarters 1 divisional " 1 armored division headquarters 1 motorized infantry regiment 1 radio detachment 1 motorized reconnaissance detachment 1 heavy tank regiment (now encamped at Zinow)
Parchim (Kiekindemark Forest)	1 motorized infantry battalion 1 motorized reconnaissance detachment 1 motorized artillery section (sic) 1 heavy tank regiment
Rostock	1 divisional headquarters 1 armored division headquarters
Rostock-Sagerheide	1 motorized infantry regiment 1 motorized engineer battalion 1 motorized reconnaissance detachment 1 heavy tank regiment
Rostocker Heide	1 divisional headquarters
Schwerin	XXIX Army Corps headquarters 2 or 3 divisional headquarters 1 motorized infantry regiment 1 artillery regiment 1 light tank regiment
Forests near Schwerin	At least two motorized divisions
Waren	1 unidentified division in forest east of Waren formerly stationed near Strelitz 1 motorized engineer battalion
Wismar	1 divisional staff 1 motorized armored grenadier regiment (sic) 1 engineer battalion
Wittenburg (T-25)	1 or 2 tank sections (sic) 1 motorized infantry battalion

10. The number of Russian occupation troops has increased in western Mecklenburg. Occupational brigade headquarters are located in Hagenow. Russian border control troop commanders are stationed in Zazzentin (F-15) and in Boizenburg (S-93).

11. There are no important Red Air Force fields in Mecklenburg. Approximately twenty fighter planes were based on the Rostock airfield in early May, while twenty others occupied the seaplane base at Warnemünde. The Schwerin field is used only by courier planes. Some Russian fighters are stationed at the airfield in the Zinow maneuver area near Neustrelitz. An airfield is under construction at Sachsenberg, near Schwerin. From 300 to 400 parachute troops were dropped in connection with the maneuvers held south of Schwerin in the spring of 1948, but the transport planes came from airfields in Brandenburg.

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[REDACTED] Comment: No previous reports have identified more than four Russian divisions in the entire state of Mecklenburg. It is unlikely that there are as many units in the area as the informant wishes to lead one to believe.)

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